

# Monday Message

March 2, 2026



Dear all,

As you know, after over two years of campus and community conversations, presentations, focus groups, and surveys culminating in strong support for the name change, followed by an April 2025 unanimous vote from the State Board of Education, we entered the final stages of the name change process – legislative review and approval. Over the course of the past weeks and months I have had the pleasure of meeting with 88 different legislators to advocate for the name change bill. These individuals asked meaningful questions, engaged thoughtful considerations, and largely voiced support for LC State and the name change rationale. As evidenced by the “do pass” Senate Education Committee hearing outcome, and the 34-Yes/0-No/1-absent Senate Floor vote on Feb. 9, we have virtually unanimous Senate support across the full spectrum of Idaho district representation and political ideology. This was and is something to be incredibly proud of!

Since the Senate vote, the bill moved to the House and was sent to the House Education Committee for a hearing. We have had informative follow-up meetings with various legislators as well as the House Education Committee chair. We remain hopeful that the name change bill ([S1234](#)) will be placed on the House Education Committee agenda soon, and will keep the campus community informed of progress.

The below summarizes some of the *due diligence* follow-up information we have been sharing. This information addresses key concerns raised and supports the name change rationale (See [www.lcsc.edu/university](http://www.lcsc.edu/university) for rationale details). Read on...

## **Will LC State stay a teaching-focused institution?**

Concern was expressed regarding whether LC State would remain a teaching-focused institution (as opposed to a research university) and the potential for ongoing cost escalation associated with a name change. The intent language added to the bill addresses these concerns and ensures that LC will remain a teaching focused institution (maintaining its mission, academic classification and dual emphasis on CTE and academic programming). As such there are no ongoing costs associated with the change.

- Intent language: “The rationale for the Lewis-Clark State College name change is to identify and clearly recognize Lewis-Clark State University as the four-year institution it is. Nothing in this legislation shall be interpreted to imply a change in mission or academic classification. Lewis-Clark State University will remain a teaching-focused institution (as opposed to a research

institution); as such there are no new ongoing costs associated with this change.”

### **Why now? Why not wait?**

#### **Enrollment stability & Workforce needs:**

The impending nationwide demographic cliff associated with a decline in traditional-age students has begun. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, this decline is expected to impact college go-on-rates for the next 10-15 years. While LC State’s enrollment has been rebounding since pandemic losses, we would be naïve to think this national trend will not impact us. As such, strengthening our brand recognition to fully express the range and scope of our academic programs (GED, two-year, four-year and graduate), and removing perceptual value-add barriers to enrollment are vital. LC State fills an important education niche in terms of workforce needs. We cannot wait for the sky to fall. We must be proactive.

#### **Fiscal impact:**

As the intent language makes clear, because LC State will stay firmly rooted in its mission and academic classification as a teaching institution (and not a research institution) there are no ongoing costs associated with the change. That said, the timing matters in terms of our ability to minimize one-time rebranding expenses. LC State is a fiscally conservative institution. As such, rebranding costs will be minimized by being built into regularly scheduled annual updates and maintenance.

#### **Broad constituent support:**

The SBOE vote to support the change was unanimous (April 2025 Board meeting). All Idaho sister institutions are in support. From students, staff, faculty, and K12 partners, to the mayor, to our business and industry partners, community members, alumni, and donors, overwhelmingly the response to the name change proposal has been positive. Without doubt, the change will positively impact LC’s long-term enrollment stability, and is important for and to our community, region, and state. As Lewiston Mayor Dan Johnson shared in his letter of support: “As Mayor, I understand the critical role Lewis-Clark State [University] plays in shaping the future of our city. A name change would not alter their mission, vision, or values, and it aligns with Lewiston’s vision for growth and prosperity....”

(click to see enlarged graphic)

**K-12 Support**

- "LCSC has always been at the university level and **It is time to officially become Lewis-Clark State University.**" – Superintendent Tim Sperber, Lewiston SD
- "**We love what LC does and think LC U is a good idea.** We look forward to the continued partnerships." – Superintendent Shawn Tieg, Moscow SD
- "**I write to express our strong and enthusiastic support for your proposal to transition your institute's name to Lewis-Clark State University...**" – Superintendent Dr. Shon Hocker, CDA SD
- "The change to ... University reflects the school's continued growth and **commitment to serving students and the community...**" – Superintendent Dena Naccarato, Post Falls SD
- "**Please make the change ...** You should be recognized for your ability to assist today's and tomorrow's students..." – Superintendent Brad Baumberger, Kootenai SD
- "The Asotin-Anatone School District proudly supports Lewis-Clark State College's evolution ... **a move that strengthens pathways** for our students and affirms our shared commitment to accessible, high-quality higher education." – Superintendent Dale Bonfield, Asotin-Anatone SD
- "Clarkston is the home of **educators who are proud LC State graduates,** and we fully support the transition to university status as a reflection of its lasting impact on our schools and community." – Superintendent Thaynan Knowlton, Clarkston SD

**Healthcare & City Support**

- "**...I strongly support the transition...** The designation of 'university' more accurately represents the scope, quality, and outcomes of its programs, and enhances visibility in attracting top-tier students, faculty, and clinical professionals." – Ed Freysinger, CEO, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center
- "**I support the proposal...**" – Joint letter signed by: Ed Freysinger, SJRMC, Kym Clift, TriState Health; Kara Besst, Gritman Medical Center; Rick Rasmussen, Northwest Specialty Hospital
- "Lewis-Clark State College has long been a cornerstone of Idaho's higher education system ... For Idaho's healthcare sector in particular, this change reinforces an important partner in expanding educational pathways, supporting regional healthcare access, and **strengthening the talent pipeline that serves patients across our state.**" – Tracy J. Farnsworth, President, ICOM
- "**We're proud to support this forward-looking change and the continued partnership that benefits our region and its workforce.**" – Rick Rasmussen, CEO, Northwest Specialty Hospital, Post Falls
- "**...I understand the critical role Lewis-Clark State (University) plays in shaping the future of our city.** A name change would not alter their mission, vision, or values, and it aligns with Lewiston's vision for growth and prosperity. I am in full support of Lewis-Clark State University." – Mayor and former Idaho State Senator Dan Johnson

**Sister Support**

- "Lewis-Clark State College has long played a vital role in developing Idaho's workforce – **The proposed change to Lewis-Clark State University amplifies that unique mission.**" – Interim President Jeremiah Shinn, BSU
- "**We support the State Board and LC State's request for the name change.** The learning landscape in Idaho is as varied as the terrain. LC State continues to evolve to meet the needs of Idaho." – President C. Scott Green, UI
- "ISU will continue to be a **strong partner with Lewis-Clark State University in providing greater educational opportunities for Idaho, including critical healthcare programming.**" – President Robert Wagner, ISU
- "**Yes! You have my support.** Leaders need to be free to move their institutions forward..." – President Gordon Jones, CWI
- "**Rebranding as a University clearly distinguishes the institution as one of the state's four-year institutions...**" – President Nick Swayne, NIC
- "**LCSC has the requisites for university ... [I] believe it to be a sound decision...**" – President Dean Fisher, CSI
- "**I fully support LC State's transition to university status.** This change reflects the institution's true scope..." – President Lori Barber, CEI

**4. The Support**

## Is there precedent for this change?

The chart below displays the historical name change precedent among Idaho's public postsecondary schools. It shows that in every instance when an institution's academic program mix warranted renaming (four-year schools adding graduate programs, and two-year schools expanding beyond technical programs) the appropriate name change has been approved. LC State was authorized by the legislature to offer graduate degrees in March of 2020. LC has three professionally focused (as opposed to research focused) master's programs (two in nursing and one in cyber accounting). These programs are fully accredited and students are enrolled. LC meets the academic qualifications to bear the university naming label.

Name of Institution (listed in order of founding)	Year	Name, changes & rationale – degree program focus
University of Idaho	1889	Established by Gov. Edward Stevenson of the Idaho Territory as the state's Land Grant institution.
	1892	Opened doors for classes
Lewis-Clark State	1893	Founded as Lewiston Normal School (teacher ed, 2yr)
	1947	Northern Idaho College of Education (teacher ed, 2yr)
	1955	Lewis-Clark Normal School (teacher ed, 2 yr)
	1971	Lewis-Clark State College (name changed when began awarding bachelor's degrees)
	2020	<i>Lewis-Clark State College – legislatively authorized to offer graduate programs.</i>
	2026	<i>Lewis-Clark State University (“university” = the accurate label since adding grad programs)</i>
Idaho State University	1901	Founded as the Academy of Idaho (secondary & trade school)
	1915	Idaho Technical Institute (2yr votech)
	1927	University of Idaho Southern Branch (2yr & some UI 4yr progs)
	1947	Idaho State College (established as an independent bachelor's degree granting institution)
	1963	Idaho State University (4yr & grad programs)
Boise State University	1932	Founded as a private junior college: Boise Junior College (2yr)

	1965	Boise College (name changed when began awarding bachelor's degrees)
	1969	Boise State College (4yr, joined state higher ed system)
	1974	Boise State University (4yr + grad programs)
North Idaho College	1933	Coeur d'Alene Junior College (established as a private school)
	1939	North Idaho Junior College – became tax supported following the Idaho Legislature's Junior College Act
	1971	North Idaho College – name changed to better reflect its mission as a comprehensive community college. (regional service, CTE, dual credit, transfer programs)
College of Southern Idaho	1965	Founded as a public community college (regional service, CTE, dual credit, transfer programs)
College of Eastern Idaho	1969	Founded as Eastern Idaho Vocational Technical School
	1990s	Eastern Idaho Technical College (technical and vocational certificate programs)
	2017	Transitioned from technical school to community college to better meet and reflect mission as a comprehensive community college (regional service, CTE, dual credit, transfer programs)
College of Western Idaho	2007/2009	Established by the Idaho Legislature as a regional community college (2007). Officially opened in 2009, as part of BSU.
	2017	Fully accredited as an independent comprehensive community college regional service, CTE, dual credit, transfer programs).

We Warrior on...

Cynthia Pemberton, Ed.D.

President

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## Announcements

### Employee Survey:

All LC State employees are invited to participate in its triennial [Employee Survey](#). Your anonymous feedback on work experience, campus climate, leadership, organizational structure, and technology helps inform institutional improvements. The survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and will be open through March 13.

### Explore School District Careers:

On March 4, join professionals from the Lewiston Independent School District for a panel highlighting both teaching and non-teaching careers within school districts, showcasing opportunities in counseling, business, technology, health services, operations, and more. Students will gain insight into the wide range of roles that support K12 education and learn about the skills employers value across positions. MLH 130, 12-1 p.m. [More info](#).

### Microsoft Purview Sensitivity Labels:

IT and the Data Working Group are partnering to roll out Microsoft Purview privacy sensitivity labels across LC State. These labels are tags that employees apply directly to documents and emails to indicate how widely the content should be shared and how much protection it requires — for example, marking a file as **Public**, **Internal**, **Confidential**, or **Restricted** — so that appropriate protections like access restrictions and encryption can be applied automatically. This initiative is a key step in strengthening our data governance practices and enabling the responsible use of AI tools like Microsoft Copilot. In the weeks leading up to launch, training sessions will be held to help employees understand both the labeling tools and how to make the right classification decisions for their work. Four PDT sessions have been scheduled between March 9-20. [Find more information](#) and [register for the PDT](#) online.

### Name Change:

LC State remains in a holding pattern. The name change bill ([Senate Bill 1234](#)) remains with the House Education Committee chair awaiting agenda assignment for a hearing. For updates visit [www.lcsc.edu/university](http://www.lcsc.edu/university).

### P-Card Update:

Effective March 1, Bank of America will implement enhanced authentication for certain

online P-Card transactions using a One-Time Passcode (OTP). OTP is being introduced to support online merchants that use additional security measures. Currently, these transactions may decline and require a phone call to complete. With OTP, cardholders will be able to authenticate qualifying transactions through a self-service process. The number of transactions requiring OTP is expected to be very limited. For instructions on setting up OTP and answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the [Purchasing website](#). If you have questions, contact [Purch@lcsc.edu](mailto:Purch@lcsc.edu).

### **Professional Development & Wellness:**

Human Resource Services has several **Emburse Travel** training sessions scheduled this week. In addition, it's offering an "**Excel Pivot Tables**" session for anyone interested in expanding their skills and learning more about how to use pivot tables effectively. Sign up at <https://www.lcsc.edu/hr/pdt>. Keep your eyes open for a new Wellness Challenge beginning Monday, March 9.

### **Research Assistance Workshops:**

The Library is introducing a pilot [Research Assistance Workshop](#) series designed specifically for students. These sessions will take place on Thursdays at 3 p.m. Students must register in advance, bring their research questions, and meet with LC State librarians to gain practical tips and strategies for effectively using LC State's research resources. Registration is available through a link on the Library's main [webpage](#) under the "Events" section. Faculty are asked to share this opportunity with their students.

### **Teams Phone Quarterly Billing:**

Teams Phone billing has transitioned to a quarterly cycle. The billing for January-March is now available for review. Charges are \$15 a month per line per phone number. To ensure charges are applied correctly, we've posted a list of the phone numbers assigned to each department on the [Intranet](#). Please review your department's assigned numbers and confirm that the listed account number is accurate. If you notice any discrepancies or if updates are needed, please contact the IT Help Desk at [helpdesk@lcsc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@lcsc.edu) by end of day, March 12. Thank you for helping keep the records accurate.

### **Work Scholars:**

Applications for the fall 2026 LC Work Scholars program are now open for both students and interested worksites. The Work Scholar program is designed to help students secure financial security by providing a full tuition scholarship and biweekly stipend, while also providing them with valuable real world work experience at 10 hours of work a week. Interested students must be an Idaho resident, maintain full-time student status while in the program, maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher, and show financial need from their FAFSA (Pell eligible). Students can apply on Handshake and find more information on the [Work Scholars students](#) page. Worksites can benefit from having a Work Scholar as they receive motivated student employees providing 150 hours of work throughout the semester without breaking the budget. Visit the [Work Scholars worksite](#)

page to access more information as well as the application to become a worksite. The deadline for both work scholars and worksites is March 13.

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## Events

Keep up on events and activities through the [Campus Calendar](#) and the [Do More App](#)

### March 2-7 – Athletics Home Events:

The LC State men's basketball team plays Corban University in the **Cascade Conference tournament title game** at 7 p.m. at the P1FCU Activity Center. The Warrior baseball team hosts a doubleheader against Bushnell University on Friday, starting at noon, and a single game at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Harris Field. Warrior dance hosts the Warrior Collegiate Classic on Saturday at the P1FCU Activity Center. Learn more at [www.lcwarriors.com](http://www.lcwarriors.com).

### Watch Party:

LC State athletics will host a watch party tonight, March 2, in the P1FCU Activity Center Auxiliary Gym at 5:30 p.m. when the women's basketball team takes on Corban for the Cascade Conference tournament title.

### March 3-12 – Women's History Month:

America's 250th birthday will take center stage at this year's [Women's History Month](#) celebrations. The events, which are open to all, are scheduled for March 3-12 under the theme "Rebels with a Cause" and will look at the roles women have played in history, especially the American Revolution.

### March 10-20 – Native American Awareness Week:

LC State will celebrate its 39th annual [Native American Awareness Week](#) on March 10-20 with a variety of speakers, events, a banquet, and powwows. This year's theme is "Reflections of Culture & Environment." All events are free and open to the public.

### March 17-18 – Warrior Giving Day:

Get ready to Wear Green. Give Green. [Warrior Giving Day 2026](#) is just around the corner, and this year LC State is leaning into the St. Patrick's Day spirit with the theme "Lucky to be a Warrior." For 1,893 minutes — a nod to the year LC State was founded — campus community and supporters will come together for a time-limited giving celebration. Every gift, at any level, makes a direct difference for LC State students and programs. As faculty and staff, you are the heart of this institution. Join in by making a gift or spreading the word. Visit [www.lcsc.edu/warriorgivingday](http://www.lcsc.edu/warriorgivingday) to learn more and save the date. More details to come! Lucky to be a Warrior. 🍀

### March 26 – Employee Recognition Event:

The Employee Recognition event has been moved up to Thursday, March 26, from 2-4

p.m. and will be held at the Center for Arts & History. The event will have an art-gallery style format, with award recipients serving as the “artists” and guests invited to walk around, visit with them, and offer congratulations. Emeriti will also be recognized on the screen and are also encouraged to attend as “artists.” Hors d’oeuvres will be served, and we encourage everyone to join us. All award criteria and requirements are listed on the [website](#). Remember that up to three awards may be given to staff members – CSO, PSO, and the Dr. Cameron D. & Marilyn K. Hinman Award.

### **April 17-19 – Art Under the Elms:**

[Art Under the Elms](#) is back and bigger than ever! This year’s event will feature 100 artisan vendors, more food truck vendors than ever before, and a full lineup of live entertainment. Enjoy performances from local favorites along with a special guest group traveling from Nashville. It’s shaping up to be an exciting and vibrant weekend on campus that you won’t want to miss. Faculty and staff **volunteers are needed** to help support the event. President Pemberton has approved, with supervisor approval, LC State employees to volunteer for up to two hours during designated work hours. Supervisors may also approve comp time if volunteer shifts are worked after hours. [View available shifts and sign up here](#). Please contact the [Center for Arts & History](#) for any questions or additional information.

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## **News & Features**

Stay current on [LC State news](#)

- [39th annual Native American Awareness Week will take place March 10-20](#)
- [LC State Warrior Giving Day returns March 17-18](#)
- [LC State to host Women’s History Month presentations in March](#)
- [LC State hosts Veteran Education Partner Summit March 10-12](#)
- [LC State moves Homecoming to spring, April 20-25](#)

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**Song for the Week:** “[Miracles](#)” by Jefferson Starship

